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STATE PUBLICATIONS

NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY

February 1999
Volume 16, Number 2

"The world will little note nor long remember" February climate in Nevada, as neither temperatures nor precipitation strayed too far from long-term averages. Temperatures were generally within two degrees plus or minus of normal with precipitation above normal in the northern half of the State and way below average or non-existent in the South and Central areas. The Tahoe Basin was the wettest area with 14.90" (173% of normal) at Mt. Rose, 11.10" (220%) at Marlette Lake, and 7.49" (184%) at Incline. In contrast no precipitation fell at several locations, including Amargosa Valley, Goldfield, Smokey Valley, Silverpeak, Beatty and Diamond Valley.

The 1998-99 Water Year (Oct. 1998-Sept. 1999), now has five months in the books with a definite trend forming. That is – most valleys and the south are drier and most mountain locations and the north are wetter than normal. The following table shows this tendency.

<u>Mountain</u>	<u>Valley</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>
Glenbrook (115%)	Reno (73%)	Denio (129%)	Las Vegas (27%)
Virginia City (105%)	Ely (83%)	Winnemucca (117%)	Caliente (47%)
Incline (107%)	Mina (76%)	Battle Mtn. (114%)	Pahrump (30%)
Mountain City (110%)	Yerington (40%)	Gerlach (123%)	Boulder City (47%)

The wettest locations in the State by amount and percent of normal are:

Mt. Rose 42.40" (111%), Marlette Lake 30.80" (134%) and Dyer (191%).

The driest are: Amargosa Valley .26", Overton .33" (13%), and Las Vegas A.P. .54" (27%).

Temperature extremes ranged from the low 80's in the South to -5° to -10° in the North, neither of which is near the records of 91° at Laughlin and -42° at Carlin.

Winds were stronger than usual, with 75-100 mph in the foothills near Reno.

TEN YEARS AGO – MARCH 1989

It was unusually warm Statewide. Some sites had the first or second warmest third month on record, including Ely, Las Vegas, Searchlight, Hawthorne, Mina and Minden. Precipitation was above normal in the North with one to three times usual, whereas the south was very dry.

NOTE: We are greatly saddened to learn of the passing of weather observer Bob Bransford of Shoshone.

He was featured in the February 1997 Monthly Climate Summary.

John W. James
State Climatologist

EARLY RENO WEATHER RECORDS

The Reno weather record is one of the longest in Nevada. Daily precipitation records were kept by Southern Pacific Railroad at the corner of Commercial and Lake Streets from December 1870 to January 1888. In January 1888 the rain gage was moved to near Morrill Hall on the University of Nevada campus, and maximum-minimum thermometers were added for daily temperature records. Agricultural experiment station personnel took the readings. After 18 years (November 1905) the equipment moved to the Thoma-Biglow Building at First and Virginia Streets until 1910. Wind instruments and a recording rain gage were also added, with the National Weather Bureau taking readings. In March 1910 the office was moved two blocks to Second and North Center Streets. Another move relocated the station at the Post Office Building on South Virginia and Mill Streets (NOTE: The downtown readings from 1905-1942 were all rooftop locations). An Airport station site, at that time called Hubbard Field, was established in January 1931. The airport was renamed United Airlines Airport and further changed to the Reno Municipal Airport in 1953. Concurrent observations were recorded in the city and at the airport from January 1931 through August 1942, when the Post Office station was closed. As of 1999 an airport location has been in effect for 68 years.

Some notable climate happenings in the "good old days" –

-19°	January 1890	Coldest
106°	July 1931	Hottest
6.76"	January 1916	Wettest
66"	January 1916	Snowiest

These are still records up to 1999.

This is a copy of one of the early months (March 1893) of weather observations in Reno. Note that even then (96 years ago) March was very changeable, with a high of only 38° on the 23rd, but 73° 5 days later. Also, a 65° on the 4th was followed by 45° the next day – much like March 1999.

Voluntary Observers' Meteorological Record: Month of <u>March</u> , 189 <u>3</u>									
Station <u>State University</u> , <u>Placer</u> County, <u>California</u> State, <u>Nevada</u>									
DATE	TEMPERATURE					PRECIPITATION			
	1 A.M.	2 P.M.	9 P.M.	Maximum	Minimum	Mean	Range	Time of beginning	Time of ending
1				49	24				
2				50	22				
3				52	22				
4				65	36				
5				45	25				
6				44	22				
7				44	30				
8				41	27				
9				38	18				
10				42	25				
11				40	24				
12				37	20				
13				45	13				
14				45	29				
15				44	30				
16				47	31				
17				52	28				
18				54	32				
19				54	37				
20				54	37				
21				44	28				
22				45	32				
23				38	22				
24				52	31				
25				58	52				
26				60	42				
27				69	28				
28				73	33				
29				69	40				
30				59	46				
31				57	37				
Sum.				1561	930				
Mean				50.4	30.0				

* Including rain, hail, sleet, and melted snow.
† From maximum and minimum readings.

W.H. North 025

(Thunderstorms and miscellaneous phenomena)

Remarks.

MARCH 1893

U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF WEATHER
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mean temperature, 40 to 40 —
Mean max. temperature, 50 to 50 —
Mean min. temperature, 20 to 20 —
Maximum temperature, 73 to 73 —
Minimum temperature, 13 to 13 —
Total precipitation, 1.58 inches
Greatest precipitation in any 24 consecutive hours
No. of clear days, 8 ; partly cloudy, 10 ;
on which .01 or more precipitation fell, 5 ;
Prevailing wind direction, SW ;
Depth of snow on ground on 15th, Trace ;
Depth of snow on ground at end of month, 0 ;
Total snowfall during the month, 1.0 in
Dates of frost, Light, 4, 2, 3, 4, 5 ;
Killing, 7, 13, 25 ;
Dates of hail, 0 ;
Dates of sleet, 0 ;
Dates of aurora, 0 ;
Time used on this form (a) Local, eastern, central, or Pacific.